



The Royal

The Official Journal of
The Royal Agricultural Society
of Victoria

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**1978 ANNUAL REPORT AND NOTICE
OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**



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The Royal

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE
ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF
VICTORIA
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H.J. Clappison **Editor**
The Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria,
Royal Showgrounds, Epsom Road,
Ascot Vale, 3032.
Telephone: 376 0471

Hearn Printing, **Advertising**
63 Murphy Street, Richmond, 3121.
Telephone: 42 4711



President's Message

Mr. R.T. Bolderstone, M.A. — President

I have recently taken three most interesting trips for the purpose of meeting farmers in Gippsland, The Western District and the Riverina.

It was exhilarating to see new confidence in the farming community particularly among beef cattle producers and also those farmers with diversified enterprises, which included the production of beef cattle.

Anytime now, those sections of the media, who publish what they know will appeal to the majority, will report on rip-offs in the meat industry.

Let nobody forget that many of these producers have had four difficult years and consequently have had to forego for a long time many of the everyday amenities that some people in the City take for granted.

Many properties have had to defer for too long, important maintenance of fencing, yard and shed replacements and the repayment of overdue debts.

Beef has been way behind in the C.P.I. index for all those years. As a friend of mine, who is heavily involved in the meat industry, frequently reminds me "We've got a long way to go to catch up to the price rise of most confectionary lines".

It is a pity that in writing these comments I am mostly "preaching to the converted" and those who sympathise — it is my hope that City daily newspapers will publish these remarks.

On January 8th I visited the property of Robert Liley of Fish Creek, one young beef producer who has endured the difficult years.

His herd won the Dalgety/R.A.S.V./V.A.S.A. Commercial Beef Herd Competition in 1978 and I commend to you a Field Day to be held on this fine property on Friday 20th April 1979.

Robert Liley found that beef cattle were not providing sufficient income in 1976/77 and so, like many others, he was forced to obtain work away from his farm — doing contract fencing and yard construction — however, he very shrewdly kept the expenditure up on his fertiliser and Herd Improvement Programmes.

Continued next page

THREE R.A.S.V. COUNCILLORS RECEIVE HONORS

President's Message

Continued from previous page

I recommend this Field Day as one well worth attending; you will be able to inspect, not only a top herd of Herefords very capably managed, but also a small property in difficult country which has needed much expertise and "know how" to bring it to its present condition.

The Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria is involved in two other Field Days, one of which is the 1978 Commonwealth Development Bank Farm Management Competition Field Day on the Dairy Farm of K.M. and P.M. Jordons at Katandra West winner of Section A (under \$200,000), on 1st March and the other will take place on 6th April on the property of K.G. and G.R. Blamey at Kyabram, winners of the Gippsland and Northern Commercial Dairy Herd of the Year Award.

The Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria is pleased to be associated with the sponsors and the Victorian Agricultural Societies' Association in conducting these fine competitions.

Culminating as they do in Field Days, these competitions are most important in keeping us involved in the practical side of farming.



New Year and Australia Day Honors have been bestowed upon three of the Society's Councillors — Sir Ian McLennan of South Yarra, Mr. R.B. Gerrand of Stradbroke via Sale and Mr. J.K. Buchanan of Flinders.

In the New Year Honors, Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II elevated Sir Ian to K.C.M.G. (Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George) for services to Youth, the Community and Industry.

Sir Ian, who was elected to Council in February last year, has brought invaluable experience to the Society, applying his wide managerial expertise to the Finance, Media, Public Relations and Advertising Committees, also the newly formed Sponsorship Committee.

Sir Ian, acknowledged as one of Australia's top 10 businessmen, was appointed Chairman of the A.N.Z. Banking Group Limited following his retirement as Chairman of B.H.P., a company with which he had been associated for over 40 years.

His interest in rural industry is served directly through his property at Narre Warren where his available spare time is devoted to breeding the noted "Oatlands" Herefords.



Her Majesty also honoured Mr. R.B. Gerrand by awarding him the M.B.E. (Member of the British Empire) in recognition of his services to the rural industry.

Elected to the R.A.S.V. Council in 1966, Mr. Gerrand is currently a member of eight Council committees.

In addition to his extensive involvement with the Society, Mr. Gerrand is Chairman of Victorian Farmers' Newspapers Pty. Ltd., and a member of the Victorian Farmers' Union Finance and Administration Committee. He was a member of the Australian Meat Board until its

dissolution in November 1977 and is now the Chairman of the Producers' Consultative Group, an advisory body to the Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation.



The Australian Government, in the Australia Day Honors, awarded Mr. J.K. Buchanan the A.M. (Member in the General Division of the Order of Australia) in acknowledgement of his work in the community.

An R.A.S.V. Councillor for the past five years, Mr. Buchanan is widely involved with the affairs of the Society, serving on eight Committees.

Continued next page

THREE R.A.S.V. COUNCILLORS RECEIVE HONORS

Continued from previous page

Mr. Buchanan's impressive "career" in local government and community affairs includes some years as a Flinders Shire Councillor and a year as Shire President.

Crusader in the face of ever increasing rates and stricter conservation measures confronting the rural sector on the Mornington Peninsular, Mr. Buchanan pioneered investigations into and the eventual introduction of the separate "farm" rating system. This has eased the burden on farmers who were in danger of being "rated off" their properties.

Apart from his work in the spheres of local government and community affairs Mr. Buchanan, until recently, was Studmaster of one of the oldest established Ayrshire cattle studs in Australia — "Gleneira" which has been a part of the Buchanan family for three generations.

Over that period, a reputation for fine seed stock has been built up around the stud which has been supported by success at the Melbourne "Royal" and many other major shows.

Congratulations to Sir Ian McLennan, Mr. R.B. Gerrand and Mr. J.K. Buchanan on having their particular fields of endeavour further acknowledged.

M.B.E. for Mrs. John Buckland

Mrs. Buckland, wife of the Society's Assistant Director, John Buckland, was awarded the M.B.E. in the New Year Honors for her services to the Public. She has had a distinguished career in both Government and Community Service.

In 1955, Mrs. Buckland was asked to take over temporarily as Lady in Waiting to Lady Brooks, wife of Sir Dallas Brooks then Governor of Victoria. The appointment at that time was held by Miss Marion McPherson, daughter of R.A.S. Councillor and Trustee, Sir Clive McPherson.



Mr. & Mrs. Liley with their children Beth 3, and Richard 5, on their property at Fish Creek.

Due to the indifferent health of Sir Clive, Miss McPherson left to nurse her father and Mrs. Buckland remained as Lady in Waiting until the retirement of Sir Dallas in 1962.

Sir Rohan Dalacombe as Victoria's next Governor brought his entire staff from the U.K. and after assisting in the "settling in" process Mrs. Buckland retired from Government House. She then became involved with other community interests and as Sir Dallas Brooks had accepted Chairmanship of the Rothmans Sports Foundation, he appointed Mrs. Buckland his Personal Secretary on a part time basis.

Mrs. Buckland accepted an invitation to join the all-women Council of Yooralla in 1962 and later became its Vice President. She was engaged by the Girl Guides' Association to conduct the successful appeal in 1965, then an appointment with a firm of Consulting Engineers at the Melbourne University followed and subsequently Mrs. Buckland joined M. Clark and Associates where she remained until returning to Government House as Private Secretary and Lady in Waiting to Lady Winneke in 1975.

The latter position Mrs. Buckland has held for the past four years.

THE LILEYS WIN TOP BEEF HERD AWARD

Mr. Robert Liley and his wife Joan of Mount Lavinia, Fish Creek, near Leongatha in South Gippsland won the State wide Dalgety Commercial Beef Herd Award for 1978.

The Liley's Hereford herd was rated as one of "outstanding quality" by the four-man judging panel and awarded a total of 82 points in the competition.

Among the 52 competitors they beat was a herd from the Nareen property of the Prime Minister, Mr. Fraser, whose herd was placed fourth.

The competition is run annually by the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria and the Victorian Agricultural Societies' Association in conjunction with Dalgety Australia Ltd, which provides prize money totalling \$3300.

PATERSON'S CURSE CONTROL — R.A.S.V. REPRESENTATION

Late last year, the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria made a representation to the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Ian Smith, concerning the introduction of biological agents to control "Paterson's Curse" in this State.

A copy of the letter was also forwarded to the Director-General of Agriculture, Dr. D.S. Wishart.

The Society's letter expressed the concern felt by the R.A.S.V. Council at the wide spread introduction of "Paterson's Curse" into Northern Victoria and pointed out that the costs to landholders of endeavouring to control the weed had been considerable, "yet seemingly largely ineffective."

Mention was also made of a beetle developed by the C.S.I.R.O. which is able to combat the weed. However its release was not supported in this

state due to fears expressed by Apiarists that the beetles may have a detrimental effect on the Honey Industry.

In conclusion, the Society's letter urged the Minister to give consideration to the immediate release of the beetle as there was a danger of Victoria becoming badly infested with the weed in a similar fashion to Southern New South Wales.

In his reply Mr. Smith stated that he had arranged for Officers of the Crown Lands and Survey Department to assist in the preparation of a paper to be submitted through the Standing Committee on Agriculture to the next meeting of the Australian Agricultural Council.

Mr. Smith stated in closing that the Society's views would be borne in mind when the matter was considered at the meeting.

OBITUARIES

Mr. Herbert F.

(Gerald) Yuncken

Mr. Gerald Yuncken who served with distinction on the Council of the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria, passed away on December 6 1978 aged 74.

Mr. Yuncken was elected to Council in February 1957 and was elevated to Life Councillor in 1977. His great knowledge of the building trade made him an invaluable member of the Society's Finance, Works and Planning and Space and Development Committees, and he proved particularly helpful over the period of construction of the Mitchell and Wilson Grandstands. He also served on the Horse and Arena, Press and Publicity, Catering and Wood-chopping Committees.

An interest in the breeding and racing of trotting horses was instrumental in Mr. Yuncken's appointment as the R.A.S.V. representative on the

Trotting Control Board for a number of years.

Mr. Yuncken will be remembered with great affection by all who served with him on Council.

Mr. James Galloway

It is with regret that we report the passing of Mr. James Galloway "Hillend", Carisbrook on January 6th 1979, at the age of 82 years.

In partnership with his late brother Robert, James exhibited Clydesdales at the Royal Melbourne Show for many years under the name of R. & J. Galloway.

The brothers donated the Hillend Challenge Trophy awarded in perpetuity for the Best Clydesdale Male 2 years old or over.

James was connected with Clydesdales virtually all his life having taken over the Hillend Clydesdales with his brother following the death of their father. James was appointed an Hon. Life Member of that Society.

Mr. Hubert A. Mullett I.S.O.

One of the Society's most respected trustees, Mr. Hubert Mullett I.S.O. B. Agr. Sc. passed away on December 14 1978. He was 88 years old.

Mr. Mullett was appointed the Victorian Government's trustee on the Council of the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria in March 1934, a position he held for 33 years.

In 1913 Mr. Mullett joined the Department of Agriculture and became the Director of Agriculture in 1933. In his early years with the Department Mr. Mullett was deeply involved with improving experiment design associated with pasture improvement which linked itself with his interest in farm crop competitions.

Mr. Mullett was the first person to identify Wimmera Rye Grass and was largely responsible for the introduction of seed certification in this State.

A prominent figure in the field of Agricultural education, Mr. Mullett served as a member of the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Melbourne and a member of the Council of Agricultural Education.

Mr. Mullett's contribution to Agriculture in this State and to the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria has been of great value and will always be remembered.

Mr. Henry E. Mounsey

Angus breeders were saddened by the death in mid December of Mr. Henry Mounsey, "Ruslo" Angus Stud, Pakenham.

Mr. Mounsey exhibited Angus Cattle at the Royal Melbourne Show since 1966 and he will always be remembered for his willingness to share knowledge with fellow breeders.

Sincere sympathy is extended to Mrs. Hazel Mounsey and her family.

STAFF PROFILE

Bill Kinsman Registrar Kennel Control Council

"It is only by strict application to the task that you can attain a desired goal.

You may achieve your objective with more success or less success than the next person — but you will make it!"

When you hear Bill Kinsman express this attitude towards life and then consider his farm to sales to Company Secretary career — with some other interesting aspects thrown in for good measure — the statement fits the compact determined man who gave it utterance.

A Sydney-sider by birth, Bill was the youngest of three children, born in the suburb of Paddington to Stella Sylvia and Edgar Royal Kinsman.

Recognised as a capable organiser and administrator, and of rather serious bearing, Bill Kinsman possesses a subtle sense of humor that lies not very far beneath the surface, as evidenced by the following remark:

"My father was a butcher by trade and having such a close relationship with cattle and a name like Royal it seems predestination that I should eventually be associated with the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria."

When Bill was very young, the Kinsman family moved to the Carlingford area, about 20 miles from Sydney, noted for its excellent small farms, mainly devoted to poultry, flowers (roses) and fruit.

Here, Bill Kinsman attended the Carlingford District Rural School where, in addition to the normal curriculum for primary-secondary education, he was also taught Rural Pursuits.

This rather unique combination of educational subjects, together with the peaceful atmosphere of the countryside was to engender in Bill Kinsman a love of the land that he has never lost.



Bill's keenness for country life influenced his decision to accept a job offered by the Vickery family (of coal-mining fame), as a general farmhand on their property at Warialda N.S.W., not very far from Tamworth.

The young Kinsman stayed in this position for 2 years, until, with the restlessness of a 17 year old youth, he returned to Sydney to commence an apprenticeship in the panel beating trade.

This was in the dark uncertain days of 1942 and Bill with commendable patriotism — or maybe he recalled the words of an old song "all the nice girls love a sailor" — joined the Royal Australian Navy as a stoker.

After completing his initial stint at the H.M.A.S. Cerebus, the Naval Training Depot at Flinders, Victoria, Stoker Kinsman was drafted to his first ship, the H.M.A.S. Platypus, a naval repair vessel, and shortly afterwards to England as one of the crew assigned to sail the cruiser H.M.A.S. Shropshire to Australia. This fine ship had been given to the Australian Navy by its British counterpart.

During the Shropshire's recommissioning, Stoker Kinsman served on it's trials in Scapa Flow, North of Scotland, and upon returning to Australia saw further service with the ship in the South Eastern theatre of war embracing areas around the Philippines and New Guinea.

Upon the cessation of hostilities in the Pacific Area, Stoker Kinsman was one of the Australian contingent who sailed with H.M.A.S. Shropshire to witness Japan's official surrender and signing of the Peace Treaty.

As Bill reminisces "I think McArthur may have seen me there — it was one place to which he did not offer to return."

Honorably discharged in November 1945, Bill Kinsman commenced a course in engineering under the Commonwealth Re-Training Scheme but this failed to hold his interest.

He then joined the well-known firm of Repeo Ltd, and after three years in their workshop, was offered a position in the electroplating and electrical instrument field as a Production manager. A position in the Sales Department of Swift and Company, Importer and General Marketers followed: the year was 1951 and Bill Kinsman was to remain with Swifts for the next 19 years.

It was here that Bill really started to put into practice "application to the task".

With the responsibility of a wife and family, having met and married the former Joyce Barrett during the war, it was obvious to Bill that the time had arrived to start "making it."

And so, during his period on the road as a salesman for Swift and Co., Bill Kinsman decided to study accountancy, and did so to such effect that he qualified in 1960.

"Application to the task" carried Bill to the appointment of Company Secretary for a number of companies in the Swift Group and at the same time he was also employed as Chief Accountant for some of their larger companies.

The position of company secretary with flour millers, Robert Harper & Co., Ltd., followed in 1969 and Bill Kinsman remained with that firm until commencing his own account-

**Bill Kinsman
Registrar
Kennel Control Council**

Continued from previous page.
ancy practice.

Running parallel with Bill's career is another interesting story, that of his great interest in the world of dogs, which had its start in 1946 when he purchased his first dog, an English Springer Spaniel. This involvement led to his eventual employment by the Kennel Control Council when, following the retirement of Mr. Laurie Luxmore after the 1975 Royal Melbourne Show, Bill Kinsman was appointed its Registrar.

Bill and his wife Joyce are well known in the dog world having had wide experience in Club and Show administration; Mrs. Kinsman having joined the elite group of All Breeds Lady Judges in 1973.

In 1957 Bill Kinsman purchased and commenced showing German Shepherd Dogs under the "Kinbar" prefix.

His apprenticeship for the top K.C.C. appointment in administration was served as a Committee Member and Treasurer of the German Shepherd Club, with executive positions on the Sporting Terrier Club, Heidelberg and District Club, Melbourne Dog Club and Classic Dog Show Committees. He was appointed to the Committee of the Kennel Control Council in 1972.

Upon assuming the duties of Kennel Control Council Registrar, Bill Kinsman, keen to improve member services, directed his attention to the existing manual procedures for the maintenance of breed registers.

This examination resulted in his conviction that a system of electronic data processing would be beneficial in this regard.

When the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria introduced a computer configuration for this and other purposes, Bill's experience with E.D.P. greatly assisted the smooth and efficient transfer of breed registers from manual to computer processing.

Another of the important tasks in his portfolio is that of Editor of the Kennel Gazette, the official journal of the K.C.C. which has a distribution in excess of 25,000 per month. Bill sees this magazine as a communication link between management and members and he continually seeks to improve its contents and presentation.

In the little time he has to spare, Bill Kinsman likes to "potter in the garden and look after his caged birds"; he has 80 Budgerigars, 2 Cockatoos — and a cat!?

Application to the task? With a membership of over 25,000 in the K.C.C., Registrar Bill Kinsman needs it! — and has it!



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MEAT PRICES

There has been constant speculation recently relating to increases in meat prices and to set the record straight the Chairman of the Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation Mr. R.G. Jones wrote the following letter to daily newspapers, radio and television stations throughout Australia.

"As Chairman of the Statutory Corporation given responsibility by Act of Parliament to encourage and promote meat consumption in Australia, I wish to bring to your attention a matter which seriously concerns both this Corporation and all Australian beef producers.

I refer to current public comment about rising beef prices.

In some cases, such comment has been exaggerated and lacking in perspective, and has completely ignored the fact that prices are rising from levels which over a four year period, forced many producers either to leave the land or to accept negative incomes.

It has already provoked some consumer backlash, and were this to continue without the true facts being understood, it could endanger a recovery in the beef industry — a recovery vital to all Australians.

Traditionally, Australians have recognised the value and quality of their home-grown beef and have consumed it in quantities well above average world consumption levels.

Despite the currently rising prices, it remains the case that Australians enjoy cheaper beef than almost any other country in the world.

Let me give you the latest figures available to the Australian Meat and Live-stock Corporation for fair comparison. I will take the retail price for boneless sirloin steak in selected world capitals —

	SUS/kg
Tokyo	36.65
Copenhagen	17.59
Bonn	12.86
Stockholm	12.74
Brussels	11.41
The Hague	11.12
Rome	9.63
Canberra	5.99
Washington	5.64
Brasilia	2.11
Buenos Aires	1.65

Just as Australian beef is cheap when compared with other countries, it also remains cheap in relation to other food items in Australia.

Between December 1973 and June 1978, retail beef prices did not keep pace with food items in general, nor with increases in wages and salaries.

By last June, beef prices, in relative terms, were up to 40% cheaper than four years previously.

The Australian consumer benefited generally over this period from a highly competitive domestic retail market situation brought about essentially by an over-

supply of beef production coupled with poor returns from export markets.

Naturally, in this situation, producers of beef suffered. Many were forced from the land or were unable to earn sufficient just to cover their production costs.

In 1977-78, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics estimated the average annual net cash income of cattle producers at \$5,200.

About 64% of our producers earned less than \$5,000. In relative terms, the income levels of beef producers declined by more than 70% between 1973 and 1978, while most other income classifications are better off than they were five years ago.

The latest information available from the Bureau of Statistics indicates that in a three year period from March 1974, the number of rural establishments in Australia carrying 50 head of beef cattle or more, declined by eight per cent.

Were this decline in rural establishments to continue, it would have catastrophic results for us all.

Supplies of cattle for slaughter in Australia are reducing now and basically, that is why we are paying higher prices.

But had the incentive to producers not returned in the form of better prices, many more would have been forced out of the industry, supplies would be drastically reduced, and we would all eventually have to pay prices much higher than those now anticipated.

The incentive to producers returned in June 1978, mainly because of widespread rain and improved pastoral conditions.

With the end of drought conditions, producers are now no longer being forced to sell cattle from properties too dry to feed their stock.

Overseas demand, so vital to the total viability of the industry, has also improved, giving producers further reason to retain and fatten livestock and rebuild their herds.

So yardings at markets around the country have been reduced, and prices have risen.

However, it is only recently that they have been increasing at a rate equal to or slightly higher than general food prices, and most of us are better able to afford them, while the farmer's efforts in helping to meet our basic need for food will only be adequately rewarded if returns to him continue to improve over the next few years.

In the circumstances I have outlined, I trust you will appreciate why I become most annoyed when I read statements which have even gone to the extent of predicting a doubling of retail prices this year.

Such crystal ball gazing is calculated only to do great harm to a great industry. It is heartless headline hunting of the most irresponsible kind. What has compounded my annoyance is that certain supposed representatives of cattle producers have been speaking in these terms without qualification.

Continued page 16

NEW MARKET FOR WOOL

Protective clothing for industry offers a substantial new market for wool, the managing director of the International Wool Secretariat, Dr. Gerald Laxer, told Australian growers. He said there appeared to be a potential market of about 50 million kilograms of wool annually in this field world-wide, but at present only 4 million kg. was used.

Dr. Laxer, reporting to the AWIC in Canberra, said the IWS now had technological and marketing projects harmonised so that it could identify marketing opportunities with some precision. While most market analysis was concerned with major end uses — clothing and carpets — the IWS had recently looked closely at potential new outlets for wool in what were at present minor uses, such as protective clothing and also uniforms, bedwear, upholstery and industrial textiles, with protective clothing offering substantial opportunity. Many new products the IWS were developing were based on simple, cheap IWS-developed flame-proofing processes, with effective-

ness proven beyond doubt. He said the trade unions were strong allies, since IWS was pushing the comfort as well as safety aspects of wool.

Dr. Laxer, whose report was read in his absence by newly-appointed Deputy IWS Managing Director, Dr. John McPhee, said the dilemma was how far resources should be transferred to exploit this clear opportunity when it could put at risk programmes such as Man in Wool suits, in the largest wool-consuming end uses and countries. Dr. Laxer said another financial dilemma for IWS was costs of technically servicing the Superwash programme of machine-washable knitwear, production of which had risen from one million kg. in 1970 to more than 1.5 million kg. a year now. This commitment could only be met by a compensating reduction in IWS effort on developing processing techniques further. Financial constraints had led to basic research on wool being cut from about 25 per cent of the global research budget in 1970 to about 10 per cent at present, so

that short and medium-term requirements could be met. This could go no further without putting at risk the whole future research and development programme.

Other points made in Dr. Laxer's report included: — • Economic recovery on a world-scale now looks unlikely to start before mid-1979.

• Because of the IWS financial squeeze, 14 staff — or 20 per cent of the total — had been made redundant in the French branch. This was preferred to cutting back advertising below the minimum level judged necessary. • IWS finances had been affected by an 11 per cent drop in the value of the Australian Dollar, against currencies used by the IWS in the past year, as well as an average of 7 per cent inflation in branch countries. • There had been a further substantial increase in U.S. wool consumption and IWS has been able to get wool back into important but price-sensitive national retail chains such as Sears Roebuck, J.C. Penney and Montgomery Ward. These had virtually abandoned wool in the early 1970s.

(Wool News)

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Calf Slaughter Levy

The Australian Meat and Live-stock Corporation has asked the Minister for Primary Industry to approve the introduction of a slaughter levy on calves.

The AMLC has proposed operative and maximum rates.

The maximum rate totals 43.25c made up of the following components —

For AMLC administration	16.55c
For Australian Meat Research Committee	8.70
For CSIRO Industry Service and Investigation	0.70
For National Cattle Disease Eradication	17.30
	43.25c

The operative rate is 35 cents per head —

AMLC Administration	13.00c
AMRC	4.35c
CSIRO	0.35c
National Cattle Disease Eradication	17.30c
	35.00c

The Chairman of the AMLC, Mr. R.G. JONES, said the proposed levy would maintain the historical relativity between slaughter weights on which levies had been based.

This relativity assumed that an average calf represented 17.3% of the weight of a fully grown beef animal.

Mr. Jones said the AMLC had discussed these proposals with its consultative groups before making the recommendation to Mr. Sinclair.

NOTE: Number of calves slaughtered in 1977/78 financial year was 2,461,100 head.

CHOOSING LIVE STOCK

The selection of good stock is without doubt the basis of success in all fields, whether it be cattle, horses, sheep or humans.

In 1905 a syndicate of stock breeders, under the Chairmanship of Col. Macarthur Onslow, decided to send a representative to Great Britain to import horses, cattle, sheep and pigs. They chose as their man, George Lindsay Wilson, of Berwick, the father of G.P.H. Wilson, our present Councillor and former President of the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria.

So wide were his purchases that he eventually secured the full live-stock accommodation of the ship "Swevic" and himself accompanied the consignment to Melbourne where they arrived safely and to the great satisfaction of the syndicate. Many of the purchases became the foundation stock for famous breeding programmes.

On behalf of his father, James Wilson, he purchased two Ayrshire sires, "Creamery Prince" and "Lord Douglas" both of whom were to make an important contribution to Ayrshire breeding.

After being sold later to S.P. McKay, "Creamery Prince" was exhibited at the Perth "Royal" and was awarded champion there.

Among the purchases, Mr. G.L. Wilson bought for himself the Welsh Mountain Pony Stallion "Llwyn True Blue" and this fine stallion, sired in 1900, was champion at the Melbourne "Royal".

The passage of time and the change in money values is vividly reflected in the advertisement pub-

lished herewith. "Llwyn True Blue", a proven sire in Wales, was placed at stud for the princely service fee of \$10.50, or five pounds and five shillings.

Please note the agistment fee "2/- per week for grass for mares will be charged until stinted". (Next week I go to a trotting stud to recover my New Zealand broodmare who is not in foal after 20 weeks agistment at \$8 per week). Oh for the days of G.L. Wilson! — W.D.C.



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GOLDSBROUGH MORT LTD

STUD BEEF CATTLE

What Does the Future Hold?

Has the Stud Beef cattle breeder in this country a future or not?

This question has taxed many minds lately as has probably been the case in past years.

There seems little doubt that the long established, well known stud masters will continue by virtue of their name, experience and knowledge — but what of the small or new breeder (of which there are many). What are his chances?

The changes in taxation laws will certainly make the Collins Street farmer think twice about entering the stud business now that his farming enterprises must show a profit. Yet he has been a boon to the stud industry injecting substantial "fresh"

capital and promoting vigorously in recent years.

A leading stud stock agent is recently quoted as saying that commercial buyers can expect to pay up to 30% more for stud bulls this year. The commercial producer is realising 100% more at least for his product in 1978 over what he received in early 1977 so why shouldn't the stud breeder expect the same?

Is it good business sense to run stud cattle rather than commercial? The labour input is higher, the feeding costs per animal are greater, and there are breed society costs, advertising costs to be met, in addition to superior animal accommodation and facilities. For what return?

The limited chance of producing a champion, a genuine stud sire or the aesthetic pleasure of the sign on your gate and the view from the verandah.

How often today do we see stud farmers selling runs of commercial females at their "on farm" sales to finance the pleasure of having their own personal sale ring and sale?

Can we afford to allow the costs of producing stud cattle to escalate to the point where there is no new blood taking the place of those who fall by the wayside? Can we afford to lose new ideas or a narrowing of the genetic base by virtue of the reduction in stud herds?

EQUESTRIAN TEAM IN NEW ZEALAND

Our Equestrian contingent comprising a jumping team of five and two dressage riders left Australia in January to compete in eight selected shows on New Zealand's North Island.

Jumping Team Members are:

(N.S.W.)	Mr. David Asumus (Captain)	Pipeline
	Mr. Greg Eurell	Rebel
(Vic.)	Mrs. Mariane Gilchrist	Goldray and Bowyang
	Mr. Gavin Chester	Hydrant
	Mr. Chris Smith	Sanskrit

Miss Cherie Edmonds from Victoria and Mrs. Helen Crowley of N.S.W. will compete in Dressage Competitions at the same shows, during the two months' tour.

Members will be accompanied for the duration of the tour by Team Manager Mr. Bob Brook from Nelson N.S.W.

The team and their horses were airlifted from Sydney on January 28 and will compete in New Zealand until the end of March 1979. The New Zealand Horse Society will host the Australian contingent during their visit to the following shows:

Dannevirke A. & P. Show at Dannevirke.	February 1, 2, & 3
Wellington West Coast Show at Levin.	February 9, 10, & 11
Masterton A. & P. Show at Masterton.	February 15, 16 & 17
Auckland Area Show at Auckland.	February 23, 24 & 25
Taihape Area Show at Taihape.	March 2, 3 & 4
North Island Showjumping Championships at Hastings	March 9, 10 & 11
Wills Horse of the Year Show at Gisborne.	March 15, 16 & 17
Bay of Plenty Area Show at Rotorua.	March 23, 24 & 25



APPLICATION FORM FOR MEMBERSHIP

Date

I hereby apply for membership of the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria.

If my application is accepted, I agree when entering the Showground, and during my stay therein, to wear my Membership Badge in the lapel of my coat or other prominent position where it can easily be seen by any Official.

"I agree to be bound by the rules and regulations of the Society from time to time in force to abide by such rules and regulations.

I shall not permit my Membership Badge to be used by anyone other than myself".

Signature

NAME	MR/MRS/MISS	Initials	Surname		
POSTAL ADDRESS (Please print)	Street				
	Town	State	Post Code	Phone	

*EXHIBITORS PLEASE COMPLETE STATEMENT ON BACK

PLEASE TICK IN APPROPRIATE BOX AND CALCULATE AMOUNT DUE

FULL MEMBERSHIP (including Ladies' Badge) \$30

ONE ADDITIONAL LADIES' BADGE \$12

TWO ADDITIONAL LADIES' BADGES \$24

JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP \$8

(JUNIORS ONLY)
DATE OF BIRTH

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ENCLOSE CHEQUE/MO/PO

\$

I hereby apply for membership as set out above and agree to be bound by the Constitution and Regulations.

SIGNATURE	DATE

In the case of Company Partnership or Club, please print Nominee's name.

PLEASE FORWARD THIS FORM INTACT WITH REMITTANCE TO THE DIRECTOR, ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA, ROYAL SHOWGROUNDS, EPSOM ROAD, ASCOT VALE, 3032.

PLEASE INDICATE IN WHICH SECTION(S) YOU INTEND EXHIBITING,
LEAVE BLANK IF NOT EXHIBITING.

HORSES	H
CATTLE	C
SHEEP	S
PIGS	P

GOATS	G
DOGS	D
CATS	F
OTHERS	O

- FULL MEMBERS have the right to purchase up to two (2) additional Ladies' badges at \$12.00 each.
- FULL MEMBERS may gain free admission to trotting meetings and specific functions to be advised, held on the Showgrounds outside the Royal Show Period.
- FULL MEMBERS requiring reciprocal privileges at Interstate Royal Shows will be required to pay for admission at the gate on their first visit (not refundable) and then must take their Full Member's Badge to the Administrative Office inside the grounds where they will be issued with one Members and one Ladies' pass.
- JUNIOR MEMBERS must be under 18 years of age on the first day of the year, age to be certified in writing by parent or schoolteacher.
- FULL MEMBERS have entry to Members' Grandstand Area and Members' Dining Rooms.
- FULL MEMBERS receive a copy of the "Royal" magazine each quarter.

Office Use Only	
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Arabian Action Club Initiates First All Breeds Gelding Show

The South Eastern Arabian Action Club took up the cudgel for the oft neglected gelding — considered by many as the backbone of a breed, by holding Victoria's first All Breeds Gelding Show at the Showgrounds in December last year.

The Show, which was an outstanding success, sported 125 classes for 18 different breeds and over 250 horses paraded before the judges.

All entries were eligible to compete in the "open action" classes which included Clover Barrel and Trail, in addition to their individual breed classes.

The Australian Riding Pony "Darraron" shown by Charlotte Milton of Penola, South Australia, scooped the pool in both the led and ridden Sections taking out the two Supreme Championships.

Charlotte was presented with her trophies by R.A.S. Councillor and I.V. personality Mr. Brian Naylor.

Because of the Show's popularity it has been decided to make it an annual event and the 1979 Show is to be conducted on Sunday December 9. Further enquiries may be directed to Miss Sharyne Rawson, "Denelden Arabians", Seville, telephone (059) 647-681.

SHOWDATES BOOKLET NOW AVAILABLE

The 1979 Victorian Showdates booklet produced by the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria is now available free of charge from the Society's Offices. This booklet is designed to help the farmer and the Showgoer calendar their exhibiting activities and to plan visits to areas outside their own districts.

The booklet lists all Victorian Country Agricultural Shows, Entry Closing Dates and details of Show Secretaries in addition to information about:—

- Pony Club and Open Horse Gymkhanas.
- Championship Dog Shows.
- Cat Shows.
- Sheep Shows.
- Sheep Dog Trials.
- Woodchop events.

Also contained in the Showdates booklet is information regarding all major R.A.S.V. — V.A.S.A. competitions including:—

- Sun Country Show Girl Quest.
- Farm Management, Production and Improvement Competition.
- District Fleece Contest.
- Elders Commercial Wool Sheep Flock Award.
- Gippsland and Northern Commercial Dairy Herd of the Year Award.
- Dalgety Commercial Beef Herd of the Year Award.

The 1979 Showdates Booklet may be obtained by writing to the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria, Royal Showgrounds, Epsom Road, Ascot Vale, 3032 or by telephoning 376 0471.

Commercial Wool Flock Entries Close Soon

Entries for the 1979 Elders Commercial Wool Sheep Flock of the Year Award close on March 31.

The competition, which is run on a State wide basis, is open to owners of Commercial flocks with 500 or more breeding ewes and is conducted each year by the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria and the Victorian Agricultural Societies' Association. It is sponsored by Elders G.M. who have made available over \$2000 in cash prizes for the 1979 competition.

Entry forms and conditions of entry are currently available through country agricultural societies, offices of the Department of Agriculture and the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria, Royal Showgrounds, Epsom Road, Ascot Vale 3032 (Telephone 376 0471)

Three Overseas Judges Nominated for Dog Section

Three American judges have been invited to officiate in the Dog Section at the 1979 Royal Melbourne Show (September 19-29).

Dr. H.L. Huggins of "Meadowgate Farms" Arvada, has been nominated to judge Group 1 — Toys, Group 2 — Terriers in addition to Boston Terriers, British Bulldogs, Keeshonds, Lhasa Apsos, all Poodles, Schipperkes, Irish Setters, Irish Wolfhounds and Specials from Groups 1 and 2.

The husband and wife team of Mr. and Mrs. L. Kodner, "Denlea Kennels" Highland Park, Illinois, will adjudicate at the Melbourne "Royal" on the following breeds:—

Mrs. Kodner will judge entries in Group 5 — Working Dogs (less German Shepherd Dogs, the balance of Group 6 and the Specials from Groups 5 and 6.

Mr. Kodner will officiate in the German Shepherd Dog Section.

We will look forward to seeing these top international judges in action during the 1979 "Royal".

CRAFTS

One of the most popular attractions in the Arts and Crafts Pavilion at the Royal Show every year is the Decorated Cakes Section.

People return many times to take just one more look at the almost unreal perfection of the decorated cakes on display.

To disclose some of the secrets of preparation for these "works of art", we are fortunate to commence our 1979 CRAFTS segment in "The Royal" with an article from June Elliott, a successful exhibitor at the Melbourne "Royal" and a teacher of cake decorating.



IT'S A PIECE OF CAKE

by June Elliott

Cake decorating is a hobby most housewives try sooner or later. There is always junior's birthday, Christmas, a 21st birthday or a wedding which seem to provide a special challenge. Anyone can decorate a cake providing they have plenty of patience and time.

Originality — a Key-word

There are those of us who find a challenge in competition and this is where exhibiting can be most rewarding particularly when you see your cake displayed in all its glory and hopefully with the coveted prize ticket beside it.



Competition can assist in raising the standard of your work but originality is the key-word where Show work is concerned, and this is why you should never copy a design from a book.

An exhibitor's ultimate dream is to possess the Best Cake in Show and having achieved this on three occasions at the Royal Melbourne Show, I feel confident in offering you a word of advice on cake decorating.

Rich Fruit Cake

Once bitten by the bug, it is all a matter of careful planning. Begin with a well baked rich fruit cake and try not to dry it out too much as this will present problems with crumbs when putting on the almond paste. Be careful also that the cake is not too moist because you will have the problem of the fondant discolouring. Too much brandy can cause this, so exercise care from the very beginning.

Set Cake aside for a month

Set the cake aside for at least a month before you put the almond paste on as this helps the cake to mature and it will then be firmer to work on. During this period seal the cake in aluminium foil making sure there are no creases in the foil which will mark the cake, as this will give you extra work in patching the cake before covering it with almond paste.

The paste should completely seal the cake and be perfectly smooth. It is most important to take care at this stage as this is the foundation of your "masterpiece".

Cake Shape Important

Have everything in readiness before you roll out the fondant so that it will not dry out the crust. The rolled fondant is applied in one sheet and you should keep the colouring delicate so that it will complement the decorations. You must ensure that your cake is a good shape, very smooth of even height and clean above all. Remember a well covered round cake can be far superior to a badly covered fancy shape.

Flowers

If you are making flowers keep the petals paper thin and soft looking, not like plaster and a little fluting on the edges of petals will make them look more natural. Finish your arrangement with icing leaves and soften it with loops of fine ribbon or tulle. Be sure to hide the support wires as you do not want judges to see where they enter the cake.

Brushwork

Brushwork can be quite a challenge. Do not have your royal icing too thin as colours will bleed and dry out pitted. Use a fine sable hair brush as it is excellent for detail, and a steady hand is most essential. Do not use garish colours as these are never appealing and remember the cake will eventually be eaten and therefore should appear appealing.

Design

When it comes to working on the sides of the cake, ensure that your design or theme is carried downwards for the sides should marry up with the top, to be one cake and

Continued next page



BIGGER HAND SPINNING AND WEAVING COMPETITION AT 1979 SHEEP SHOW

The Australian Sheep Breeders' Association, organizers of one of the State's largest Hand Spinning and Weaving Exhibitions, has released details of a complete schedule revision for their 1979 competition.

The competition will be held in conjunction with the Association's 97th Annual Melbourne Sheep Show to be staged on 23 and 24 July 1979 at the Melbourne Showgrounds, and will feature a display of all exhibits in the Royal Agricultural Society's new \$500,000 P.B. Ronald Arts and Crafts Pavilion. The Pavilion will be open to the public on the Saturday and Sunday prior to the Sheep Show (21 and 22 July).

Principal Competition sponsors, The Australian Women's Weekly, will make available a trophy valued at \$100 for the Best Exhibit in addition to a further \$340 in cash prizes.

Classes to be provided are as follows:

Handspun and handknitted jumper, cardigan or vest;

Handwoven floor rug;

Handwoven length of material, minimum 2 metres;

200 grams of handspun wool;

Handspun stole or shawl;

Travelling rug or knee rug;

Any article of unspun fleece;

Handspun crocheted article;

Handwoven bag.

Three hanks of handspun wool for specific purposes from the same fleece, (a) Fine, (b) Medium, (c) Heavy, State Purpose. Sample of same to be knitted, woven or crocheted. Competitors must firmly attach to entries, sample of yarn and staple of wool, and state breed.

Garment, other than stole or shawl, suitable for day wear. Handwoven using commercial and/or handspun wool or handspun woollen mixture.

Garment, other than stole or shawl, suitable for evening wear. Handwoven using commercial and/or handspun wool or handspun woollen mixture.

Garment, other than stole or shawl, suitable for day wear. Handknitted using commercial and/or handspun wool or handspun woollen mixture.

Garment, other than stole or shawl, suitable for evening wear.

not appear "bitsy". Keep your work delicate throughout for in competition, the prize winning cake shows that you are adept at all facets of decorating — piping, brushwork, modelling etc. — but be sure that they all blend together and above all be original.

Baseboard

The baseboard plays a big part in the finished cake and therefore should not be too thick because this will make the cake appear heavy. Cover the board smoothly with a covering that will complement your cake.

A final word of advice — do not rush into it. Take time in planning your cake and if you wish to enter the Royal Melbourne Show start "hatching" ideas at the beginning of the year and jot them down on paper. Bake your cake about May so you will have plenty of time to work on it without fear of the fondant discolouring.

For the novice try a simple design and execute it well. Go to it: good decorating and good luck.

Handknitted using commercial and/or handspun wool or handspun woollen mixture.

Garment, other than stole or shawl, suitable for day wear. Hand-crocheted using commercial and/or handspun wool or handspun woollen mixture.

Garment, other than stole or shawl, suitable for evening wear. Hand crocheted using commercial and/or handspun wool or handspun woollen mixture.

Handspun Cap or Hat.

Handwoven Wall Hanging (wool to be included) Minimum size 23 cm x 28 cm.

Best Article using Mohair.

Novice — An article featuring wool, (free choice of technique).

6 x 30 gram skeins flora dyed wool, (state materials used).

Handspun article for baby wear, Article or garment made from handspun wool, (natural colours).

Article or garment made from handspun and dyed wool (not commercial dyes).

Continued next page

1978 MEAT EXPORTS EXCEED 1 MILLION TONNES

Australia exported just over 1 million tonnes of meat in 1978.

Last year's exports of beef and veal, mutton, lamb, pigmeat and fancy meats totalled 1,025,765 tonnes — an increase of almost 3% on the 1977 total of 996,580 tonnes.

Releasing the figures today, the Chairman of the Australian Meat and Live-stock Corporation, Mr. R.G. JONES, said it was the first time in a calendar year that Australia had exported more than 1 million tonnes of meat.*

However, Mr. Jones emphasised that a significant volume of these exports had been to lower priced markets.

"The figures reflect record levels of cattle slaughtering which continued for much of 1978 as producers were forced to turn-off livestock from dry pastoral areas," he said.

"With improved seasonal conditions and prospects for greater Australian access to the better priced markets, producers now have the incentive to rebuild depleted herds and beef exports will decline in 1979.

"Mutton production is also expected to decline, while the AMLC forecasts a slight increase in lamb production, although more lamb is expected to be sold on the domestic market in 1979."

Mr. Jones said significant points from the 1978 export figures included —

- a rise in beef and lamb exports, with beef up 7.5% to 786,300 tonnes and lamb up 34% to 46,364 tonnes

- a 25% decline in mutton exports to 123,784 tonnes
- a 15.8% increase in exports to the United States and Canada to 406,877 tonnes
- a 13% rise in shipments to all Asian markets, including Japan, to 293,787 tonnes
- a 10.9% rise in exports to all Middle East Markets to 128,612 tonnes.

A state by state breakdown of the exports —
Queensland — 324,282 tonnes — up 8.9%
New South Wales — 272,484 tonnes — up 6%
Victoria — 235,415 tonnes — up 4.2%
South Australia — 74,490 tonnes — up 10.1%
Western Australia — 82,816 tonnes — down 28%
Tasmania — 25,716 tonnes — down 2.4%
Northern Territory — 10,562 tonnes — up 66.7%

* (In its announcement of exports for the 1977-78 financial year, the AMLC said the total of 1,013,102 tonnes was the first time exports had exceeded 1 million tonnes in a twelve-month period.)

MEAT PRICES

Continued from page 7.

It is a fact that present indications do point to some increase in beef prices this year. To what extent is difficult to predict in an Industry so susceptible to seasonal conditions and the whims of international politics.

In February, the Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation will launch a television advertising campaign which will emphasise the value of meat to all Australians, who still represent this Industry's best customers.

This Corporation believes Australians get value in many respects for the beef they buy, and will continue to get value, price-wise, health-wise and for all the other reasons beef is purchased.

I have "blown this whistle" because it is time to stop the hysteria about beef prices.

I have written to you in the knowledge that you are a responsible organisation vitally interested in the welfare of consumers in general.

My Corporation would appreciate any assistance your organisation can give to ensure that the true value of beef is not distorted, and irrevocable harm done to a great many resilient cattle producers who only now face better times ahead after four years of disaster."

Yours sincerely,
(R.G. Jones)

BIGGER HAND SPINNING & WEAVING COMPETITION

Continued from previous page.

Team Competition, (open to Handspinners and Weavers Guild, Country Women's Association and other organisations.) Five different articles to be made by the nominated team.

Any other hand-made article (not mentioned above) of commercial wool.

Any article featuring wool, (free choice of technique) made by a child, age to be stated.

Tanned Sheep or Goat Skin, (not commercially tanned).

Any article or garment from sheep or goat skin.

Entry forms and conditions of entry are now available from the Secretary, Australian Sheepbreeders' Association, Royal Showgrounds, Epsom Road, Ascot Vale, (Telephone 376 0471).